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Llandeilo Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER

1957

J. W. THOMAS AND SONS, COUNTY PRESS, LLANDEILO.

Llandeilo Rural District Council

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SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Dr. GLADYS M. HERBERT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

GWYN THOMAS, B.A., M.P.H.I.A.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

D. BRINLEY EVANS, M.P.H.I.A., A.R.S.H.

ERIC JONES, M.P.H.I.A.

CLERK:

ANN LLEWELYN.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Area of the District	..	..	..	..	236,649 acres.
Population - Llandeilo R.D.C.	..	..	..	..	25,470.
Number of Dwelling Houses	..	..	..	..	7,881.
Number of Council Houses	..	..	..	..	957.
Average number of persons per house	..	..	..	..	3.23.
Number of Births	..	..	..	..	331.
Number of Deaths	..	..	..	..	334.
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	£140,304.
Sum represented by penny rate	..	..	..	..	£523 12s. 0d.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have pleasure in presenting my sixth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

I am glad to be able to report that it has again been a good year for health in the area—apart from a small epidemic of influenza which was general throughout the country.

There was a further drop of 100 in the estimated population and of 18 in the number of births registered.

Heart disease again accounted for practically one third of the 334 deaths, 31.4% compared with 29% the previous year. Intracranial vascular disease was unchanged at 17% and the deaths from cancer fell from 16 to 13.9%, but there was an increase in the deaths from lung cancer.

I again wish to thank the Public Health Inspectors for their help and co-operation in the work of the Department; also other members of the Staff and the Council for their continued interest and support.

I am, your obedient servant,

GLADYS M. HERBERT,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.*LIVE BIRTHS.*

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	320	161	159
Illegitimate	11	7	4
Legitimate and Illegitimate	331	168	163

STILL BIRTHS.

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	8	5	3
Illegitimate	1	1	0
Legitimate and Illegitimate	9	6	3

**BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF
MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH RATES AND
CASE RATES.**

BIRTH RATES.

	Llandeilo R.D.C.	C.C.C.	England & Wales
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population ..	12.99	13.79	16.10
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	26.47	29.32	22.40

INFANT DEATHS.

Under 4 weeks.

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	6	4	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Under 1 Year.

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	8	5	3
Illegitimate	1	1	0

INFANT DEATH RATES.

	Llandeilo R.D.C.	C.C.C.	England & Wales
All causes under 1 year ..	27.19	29.80	23.00
All causes under 4 weeks ..	18.14	20.43	16.50

CLASSIFICATION OF INFANT DEATHS.

	Premat- urity		Congenital Malform- ations		Infective conditions		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 day ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
1—2 days ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
2—3 days ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1 week ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
2 weeks ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1—6 months ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
6—12 months ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total ..	2	1	2	1	1	1	5	3

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

	Llandeilo R.D.C.	C.C.C.	England & Wales
Number of Deaths	0	0	
Deaths per 1,000 (live and still births)	0	0	0.47

DEATH FROM ALL CAUSES IN 1957.

Number of Deaths—334.

Male—192.

Female—142.

51% of the 334 deaths, 91 males & 80 females were 70 years & over.
 38% of the 334 deaths, 66 males & 60 females were 75 years & over.
 23% of the 334 deaths, 39 males & 37 females were 80 years & over.
 7½% of the 334 deaths, 14 males & 12 females were 85 years & over.
 3% of the 334 deaths, 4 males & 6 females were 90 years & over.

DEATH RATES.

	Llandeilo R.D.C.	C.C.C.	England & Wales
All Causes	13.11	13.72	11.50

NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM EACH DISEASE
with rates per 1,000 population.

	Male	Female	Rates
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	0	0.03
Other tuberculous diseases	0	1	0.03
Diabetes	2	1	0.11
Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	0	0.03
Influenza	4	3	0.27
Bronchitis	10	3	0.51
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	5	0.43
Other Respiratory Disease	19	0	0.75
Cancer	24	22	1.84
Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	35	2.31
Coronary Disease	28	14	1.61
Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	3	3	0.24
Other Heart Disease	27	30	2.22
Other Circulatory Diseases	8	8	0.62
Peptic Ulcers	3	0	0.11
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	1	0	0.03
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea ..	1	0	0.03
Nephrosis and Nephritis	1	1	0.08
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	0	0.15
Congenital Malformations	2	1	0.11
Motor Accidents	3	1	0.15
All other Accidents	5	2	0.27
Suicide	0	4	0.15
Other defined & illdefined diseases	15	8	0.90
All Causes	192	142	13.11

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

There were fewer deaths from cancer this year—a total of 46 compared with 53 in the previous year—24 males and 22 females.

This year there were five deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus compared with three in 1956. They were all men between the ages of 49 and 71 years.

The mortality rate was again less than the County rate.

CLASSIFICATION OF CANCER DEATHS ACCORDING TO SITES AND AGES.

	Stomach		Colon		Lung and Bronchus	Breast	Genito Urinary		Pancreas		Sarcoma	Other Sites	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	M	F
10—20 years	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
20—30 years	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30—40 years	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
40—50 years	..	..	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50—60 years	..	..	2	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
60—70 years	..	..	1	1	2	—	—	2	1	—	2	—	—
70—80 years	..	..	3	3	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	1	—
80 and over	..	..	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	..	..	8	5	5	4	1	7	1	1	4	1	1

DEATH RATE FROM CANCER.

LIANDELL O R.D.C.—1.84

C.C.C.—2.0

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

Apart from an outbreak of influenza in the autumn, very few cases of infectious diseases occurred.

The influenza outbreak was mainly a mild infection affecting school children and adults. Only a few cases of pneumonia were notified, but there were seven deaths. Bacteriological tests showed that the causative organism was the Asian strain of the influenza virus which had spread to this country from the Far East.

Classification of Notifiable Diseases.

					Llandeilo R.D.C.	C.C.C.
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	6	68
Measles	..	..	..	..	5	122
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	5	157
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	2	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	—	10
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—	4
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	7	137
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	—	216
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	3	12
Meningococcal infection	..	..	..	..	1	1
Total	..	..	..	..	29	739

IMMUNISATIONS AND VACCINATIONS.

Diphtheria:

For the 11th year in succession no cases of Diphtheria occurred in the district, but a few cases are still occurring throughout the country, so parents should therefore ensure that their children are protected by inoculation. This can be obtained from the family doctor or at the local Infant Welfare Clinics.

Below is a table of the number of children in the area who were given the full primary course of injections and those who received the booster or reinforcing injection.

0—5 years who completed full primary course ..	182
5—14 years who completed full primary course ..	—
Number who received a “reinforcing injection” ..	104

Smallpox:

In addition a number of infants were vaccinated against smallpox either at the clinic or by their family doctor. Separate figures for the R.D.C. are not available, but 1,027 infants were vaccinated just under 40% of the total births registered for the year.

Poliomyelitis:

Vaccination against poliomyelitis was given to children in certain age groups. Separate figures for the district are not available but the number for the whole county were:-

Those who received the full course of 2 injections	7,653
Those who received one injection	1,717

Tuberculosis:

During the year B.C.G. vaccination for tuberculosis was continued for school leavers. This was in addition to that given to case contacts.

The County Figures were as follows:

School Children Scheme:

Number skin tested	132
Number found negative	113
Number vaccinated	113

Contacts Scheme:

Number skin tested	1121
Number found negative	626
Number vaccinated	297

This year there was a marked drop in the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified in the area—18 compared with 40 in the previous year. There were two deaths—one male and one female.

	1956	1957
Total Notifications ..	40	18
Respiratory ..	24 male. 15 female	9 male. 7 female
Non-respiratory ..	0 male. 1 female	1 male. 1 female

The following table gives the age distribution of all new cases notified during 1957.

Age	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
15—20 years	1	1	0	0	2
20—25 years	0	3	0	1	4
25—30 years	1	2	0	0	3
30—40 years	0	1	0	0	1
40—50 years	4	0	1	0	5
50—60 years	3	0	0	0	3
Total	9	7	1	1	18

TUBERCULOSIS RATES 1957.

				Llandeilo R.D.C.	C.C.C.
Case Rates:-					
Respiratory	..	..	..	0.53	0.92
Non-respiratory	..	..	..	0.08	0.12
Death Rate:-					
Respiratory	..	..	..	0.03	0.11
Non-respiratory	..	..	..	0.03	0.04

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

During the year the Mass Radiography Unit visited Llandybie. 907 persons were examined—486 males and 421 females.

The Unit also visited Pantglas Hall when 110 patients, 10 nursing staff and 9 other staff were examined. Two of the patients were referred for further investigation.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47.

Visits were paid to several old people living alone who were in need of care and attention, but an Order for Admission was only required in a case of one woman. She was admitted to hospital on an Emergency Order under the 1951 Amendment Act.

DETAILS OF WATER AND SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

WATER SUPPLIES:

(a) Schemes completed during the year:

Halfway Village.

(b) In progress during the year:

Nil.

(c) Awaiting approval of the Ministry:

Comprehensive Water Scheme.

Pantglas and Dryslwyn Water Scheme.

(d) Schemes under consideration 31st December, 1957:

Brynamman, Cwmllynfell Augmentations Scheme.

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL:

(a) Scheme completed during the year:

Nil.

(b) In progress during the year:

Ffairfach and Llandeilo Urban Joint Sewerage Scheme.

(c) Schemes awaiting approval of the Ministry:

Penygroes and Blaenau Sewerage Scheme.

Gate Road Sewerage Scheme.

Capel Hendre Sewerage Scheme.

Carmel and Pantllyn Sewerage Scheme.

Crugybar Sewerage Scheme.

Penpound Sewerage Scheme.

Tycrocs Joint Sewerage Scheme.

(d) Schemes under consideration 31st December, 1957:

Llansawcl Sewerage Scheme.

Llangadog Sewerage Scheme.

Pumsaint Sewerage Scheme.

Rhosamman Sewerage Scheme.

Cilycwm Village Sewerage Scheme.

Llansadwrn.

Llanwrda.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

1. Inspection for purpose of provision as to health.

Premises	Inspections	No. of written notices	Prosecutions
(i). Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.As. ..	2	—	—
(ii). Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A. ..	13	—	—
(iii). Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding outworkers premises)	2	—	—
Total	17	—	—

2. Cases in which defects found.

Number of Defects				
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:-				
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	—	—
Total	4	4	—	—

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council:

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Olley and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I present my Sixth Annual Report for your information and consideration.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Dairies	22
Butchers Shops	23
Cafes	13
Ice Cream Premises	43
Confectioners	16
Canteen and Clubs	11
Food Factories	5
Bakehouses	17
Grocers and Greengrocers	98
Fried Fish Shops	7
Licensed Premises	61
Slaughterhouses	878
Schools	7
Factories	17
Water Supplies	408
Drainage	305
Piggeries.. .. .	4
Public Conveniences	7
Rodent Destruction	1987
Refuse Disposal	41
Infectious Diseases	22
Filthy and Verminous Premises	11
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Act)	28
Dwelling Houses (Housing Acts)	782
Dwelling Houses (Miscellaneous) Inspections	118
Council Houses	99
Nuisances (Miscellaneous)	77
Total	5107

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

Number of Statutory Notices served	46
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	39
Number of preliminary Notices served ..	11
Number of preliminary notices complied with	11
Work undertaken by Council in default ..	Nil

WATER SUPPLY.

Table of Analysis of Samples for the Year.

(a) PUBLIC SUPPLIES:

Chemical Analysis:

Number of samples collected ..	..	1
Number of samples satisfactory ..	..	1
Number of samples unsatisfactory ..	..	0

Bacteriological Examination:

Number of samples collected ..	..	155
Number of samples satisfactory ..	..	126
Number of samples unsatisfactory ..	..	29

(b) PRIVATE SUPPLIES:

Bacteriological Examination

Number of samples collected ..	..	113
Number of samples satisfactory ..	..	47
Number of samples unsatisfactory ..	..	66

Although a considerable time must still elapse before the large number of dubious private supplies within your area dwindles to comparative insignificance, it is gratifying to believe, that when the Annual Report for 1958 comes to be written, it will be possible to note that the Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme, which in its entirety is to spread its tentacles to embrace so many of your most rural parishes, is proceeding with vigour and expedition, to remove for all time so many of those inadequate and potentially dangerous private supplies which have been the bane of councillor and official alike for so many years. Until then, however, close vigil will continue to be kept over these make-do supplies to safeguard as far as possible the health of those ratepayers, who unfortunately must depend upon them.

The Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme, catering as it does for the more rural parts of your district, will not be fully established, however, with the construction of reservoirs and the laying of mains. These will only serve to collect and distribute an adequate supply of wholesome water through selected arteries—carefully selected arteries I have no doubt—but nevertheless, arteries through which it will be impossible to serve all the many scattered dwellings enroute. And this aspect, I feel, deserves careful examination by the Council.

Where the mains will pass through or in very close proximity to the built-up areas, i.e., the villages and hamlets, little difficulty should be experienced in linking up the majority of the dwellings in each such group; but a very large number of properties must surely exist where the distance from the mains may well make the provision of the necessary service pipes to such dwellings a costly item. Nor in such instances will it be possible for the Council to compel the owners of such properties to link up to their mains, if the total cost of providing such mains supply exceeds £20 per house.

It is not my purpose to cast a shadow over an admirable and long awaited water supply scheme, but I feel that this particular aspect of it should be thoroughly examined:-

- (i) That the extent of the problem may be ascertained at an early date, and
- (ii) that should it be felt necessary, having ascertained the extent of the problem, a policy be formulated whereby the maximum number of properties may be provided with a main supply.

It should be noted too, that many farms in the areas covered by the scheme are already provided with an adequate private supply grant-aided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. Fifty seven such schemes were approved during 1957, and during the past seven years more than 200 farms have been provided with a piped supply of water from private sources. Having embarked upon such approved schemes, it is most unlikely that these farms will desire a mains supply if and when this becomes available to them.

HOUSE CONNECTIONS.

	Main Supplies				Private Supplies	
	Direct to House		By Standpipe		No. of Houses	Population
	No. of Houses	Population	No. of Houses	Population		
Llandingat Without	2	7	—	—	85	252
Llandeilo Rural ..	597	2079	57	199	434	1791
Llanegwad ..	116	475	27	79	189	612
Llangadog	237	708	11	29	225	732
Llanddeusant ..	12	50	7	15	88	218
Llandyfeisant ..	8	26	—	—	11	47
Llanfairarybryn ..	50	157	7	26	134	454
Llanfihangel Aber.	219	861	26	120	75	217
Llanfynydd ..	28	89	18	36	122	391
Llangathen ..	9	30	33	107	126	472
Llansadwrn ..	36	139	14	46	117	346
Llansawel	44	122	22	44	120	357
Llanwrda	—	—	—	—	115	355
Talley	28	60	7	2	90	280
Conwil Caio ..	28	84	9	28	298	841
Cilycwm	23	90	—	—	185	380
Myddfai	—	—	—	—	161	535
Betws	282	949	—	—	13	43
Llandybie	2129	7728	14	46	95	280
Quarter Bach ..	908	2631	12	38	11	46

During the year under review 28 private houses were provided with a mains water supply.

DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Slowly, very slowly, the "old order changeth, yielding place to new." Progress in this vital effort of overthrowing the abominable conservancy system and replacing it generally with a water carriage system, is proceeding only at caterpillar pace. The sewerage schemes which last year passed successfully through Public Inquiries—Penygroes, Capel Hendre and Gate Schemes—remain paper schemes. The national adverse economic situation continues to outweigh the promotion of healthy conditions for the people and these unsanitary conditions, which are steadily worsening, continue to embarrass and frustrate members and officials alike. The unhealthy and potentially dangerous conditions prevailing were fully and forcibly submitted and accepted, at the Public Inquiries, and I feel that the Council should persist in their representations to the Ministry and refuse to cease doing so until starting dates for the schemes are finally agreed upon.

This dismal picture is somewhat offset by the good progress now being made with the Llandeilo Urban and Ffairfach Joint Sewerage Scheme. For so many years, Ffairfach has stood out as one of the black spots within the Council's area, and it is heartening to know, that within a comparatively short period this delightful and picturesque village will be endowed with modern sanitation.

It is to be hoped that this magnificent scheme will serve as an incentive to all to proceed with added vigour to bring the same long-needed amenities to other villages and particularly and primarily to Llangadog and Llansawel.

There are very many dwellings, of course, for which the Council can never hope to provide sewers. And for a number of years, I have advocated the purchase of a modern cesspool emptier to cater for such properties. To my mind, this is a service which these particular ratepayers are entitled to and one which I feel should receive careful and early consideration by the Council.

RODENT CONTROL.

Summary of Control Measures.

Type of Property	No. of Inspections	No. of Treatments	No. Sect. 4 Notices	Block Treatments		
				No.	No. of Premises	No. of Manhole
L.A. Property	10	8	—	10	79	13
Dwellings	1568	1257	—	—	—	—
Business Property	9	9	—	—	—	—
Agric. Property	400	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1987	1274	—	10	79	13

The first few months of the current year brought an almost overwhelming number of complaints from all parts of the Council's area. This coincided with a press report relating to cases of suspected Weil's disease in the vicinity, a rat-borne disease which so often, when it occurs, culminates in death. Thereafter, the number of requests for the rodent operator eased to the more normal demand. During this extremely busy period, the rodent operator carried out his duties magnificently and all complaints were dealt with and with very little delay.

Again it was possible to make a survey of a large number of agricultural properties, and as there appears to be every indication that full responsibility for the control of this type of property against rats and mice will eventually fall upon the local authority, these surveys assume more and more importance. Should the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food cease to enter into contracts with farms for the eradication of rats, then it may well prove that local authorities may look to the farms for a source of revenue to meet the costs of this service.

It is now a far cry to the out-dated "rat week" entered upon by so many local authorities in past years. The science of rodent control has advanced by leaps and bounds in the last two decades and the war on rodents has developed into a continuous savage battle, in which the enemy's losses, could they be given a figure, would prove astounding. His prolific breeding and wily character, however, are sources of vast reserve, and only constant vigilance and persistent action can withstand these. It is claimed that the rat population has fallen appreciably and from a study of the problem in your own area over the past few years, I would be inclined to agree with this.

Nevertheless, as long as reports are received from various parts of your district, of "great rats, small rats, grey rats, tawny rats"—and indeed, in the Brynamman area particularly—"rats as big as cats"—the battle must continue with violence and determination.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

MEAT.

Slaughterhouses.

(a) Management:

There has been much publicity of late regarding the quantity of meat which is unexamined in slaughterhouses throughout England and Wales before it leaves for the retailers' shops and the consumers' ovens. Indeed, certain of the adverse reports published are sufficient to cause panic amongst the public. Perhaps it is not for me to deny the veracity of such reports, having no figures of my own with which to substantiate my own views. Nevertheless, I am fairly convinced that the quantity of meat which reaches the consumer without having first been examined by a competent meat inspector, is very small indeed. From time to time, it has been necessary for your own inspectors to work for short periods outside office hours and during Bank Holidays to ensure that all meat is inspected. As a result, it is possible to report that in so far as your own district is concerned, a hundred per cent. meat inspection was achieved during the year. Of the 9,505 animals slaughtered, all were inspected.

Although it has always been my aim to condemn no more meat than is absolutely necessary in the interest of public health, the butcher himself is not always mindful of his own interests. During the year, it will be noted from the tables indicating the details of meat condemned, that 110 lbs. of meat were confiscated as a result of putrefaction. This meat, which at one stage had been passed as fit for human consumption, had been left by the butchers exposed

in a warm and humid atmosphere for periods ranging from twenty-four to forty-eight hours, until on subsequent inspections of meat at the slaughterhouses, it was found to be unfit and consequently confiscated.

Bruising took toll of 130 lbs. of meat during the year, and although the butchers themselves may not have been at fault, it is still likely that much of this meat could have been saved with added care during the time the animals were awaiting slaughter and during the process of slaughtering and dressing.

Five pounds of meat were condemned as a result of contamination with faeces, etc. This is gross negligence, and in such cases, although otherwise perfectly sound, I do not hesitate to condemn and confiscate the affected meat.

A few beasts were again discovered during the year harbouring *Cysticercus bovis*, the cystic form of the human tapeworm *Taenia Saginata*. These cysts, when active, and if consumed by human beings will develop into the tapeworm abovementioned which can be anything from 10 to 25 feet in length. Every care is taken when these cysts are discovered. The parts affected are condemned and arrangements are made, after a thorough examination of the carcass, for it to be placed in cold storage for a period of three weeks at 20 degrees Fahrenheit or for two weeks at a temperature of 14 degrees Fahrenheit, a process which renders harmless any undiscovered cysts.

(b) Slaughterhouse Policy:

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food made known during the year the text of certain regulations he will bring into force on the passing of the Slaughterhouse Bill.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Amendment

Regulations are designed to amend and supplement the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No. 2) Regulations, 1954. At all slaughterhouses where adult cattle are slaughtered, the provision and use of stunning pens will be compulsory, but local authorities will be empowered in certain circumstances to allow some delay in the application of this requirement in particular premises by issuing certificates of exemption.

The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene Construction) Regulations are designed to secure the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions in connection with the handling of animals and meat and deals with

(i) lay-out; (ii) lairage; (iii) accommodation; (iv) lighting and ventilation; (v) cleanliness and repair; (vi) drains; (vii) water supply; (viii) equipment; and (ix) first aid materials.

INSPECTION OF FOOD ANIMALS.

The following are details of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year, viz:-

Beasts	701
Calves	783
Sheep	6593
Pigs	1428
Total	<u>9505</u>

DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED.

BEASTS.

Reason for Condemnation	Amount Condemned (lbs).
Fascioliasis	895
Abscesses	166
Cirrhosis	156
Pneumonia	163
Peritonitis	14
Hydatid cysts	115
Actinomycosis	31
Bruising	130
Telangiectasis	86
Melanosis	24
Pleurisy	70
Echinococcus	28
Necrosis	27
Cysticercus Bovis	46
Putrefaction	110
Emaciation and dropsy	500
Total	<u>2061</u>

CALVES.

Reason for Condemnation	Amount Condemned (lbs.)					
Pleurisy	..	..	..	..	..	11
Abscesses	..	..	..	..	..	26
Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	76
Inflammation	..	..	..	..	..	16
Melanosis	..	..	..		..	3
Total	..	..	..	..	..	132

SHEEP.

Reason for Condemnation	Amount Condemned (lbs.)					
Echinoccus	..	..	..	..	..	145
Fascioliasis	..	..	..	..	..	366
Strongylosis	..	..	..	..	..	153
Physiological Degeneration	..	..	..	..	..	49
Abscesses	..	..	..	..	..	24
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	131
Pleurisy	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cysticercus Tenuicollis	..	..	..	..	..	5
Emaciation	..	..	..	..	..	80
Contamination	..	..	..	..	..	5
Total	..	..	..	..	..	962

PIGS.

Reason for Condemnation	Amount Condemned (lbs.)					
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	10
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	71
Pleurisy	..	..	..	..	..	103
Ascaris Lumbricoides	..	..	..	..	..	42
Total	..	..	..	..	..	226

Grand Total of Meat Condemned: 1 Ton 10 cwts. 20 lbs.

MILK.

Very few families within your area today partake of any other than designated milk—Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) or Sterilised. Perhaps it is the comparative safety in choice which gives the answer to the apparent unconcern of housewives when they find, on collecting the milk from their doorstep in the morning, that the cap has wholly or partially disappeared, having been destroyed by our feathered friends, particularly the mischievous blue-tit. They do not appear to appreciate in this almost daily occurrence, a source of danger to the health of their families. Birds find their natural foods in the soil, manure on plants, etc., and thus apart from being capable of transmitting filth to the milk as they joyfully peek the cream, they are equally capable of transmitting germs of disease to the milk. In this way a supply of milk perfectly wholesome and free from disease on delivery, can be rendered germ-ridden by the time it is partaken by the family.

I cannot urge too strongly that housewives whose milk is delivered to the doorstep should take the precaution of leaving suitable protective coverings for the tops of the bottles and asking their retailers to make use of them. Old cups or beakers suit the purpose admirably, and if these are placed on the tops of the empty bottles, the retailer is more likely to use them for the new bottles on delivery.

Neither are milk distributors always alert to this same danger. During the year, your officers have had occasion to reprimand two retailers for leaving their milk unprotected in the open air, thus contravening Regulation 30 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations.

ICE CREAM.

An additional seven premises were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the purpose of Sale of Ice-Cream. This brings the total of premises registered up to 51. These are made up as follows:-

Sale of pre-packed ice cream	..	..	..	43
Manufacture and sale (Cold Mix Method)	..			1
Manufacture and sale (Hot Mix Method)	..			7
				—
Total	..	..	..	51
				—

Twenty-five samples were collected during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination, the results being as follows:-

Grade 1 ..	..	..	10
Grade 2 ..	..	..	5
Grade 3 ..	..	..	4
Grade 4 ..	..	..	6

During the year, forty-three visits were made to ice-cream premises including dairies. These are conducted in an excellent manner and our visits, which are always made on terms of friendship and not as enforcement officers, are welcomed and our advice and suggestions appreciated at all times.

MISCELLANEOUS FOOD PREMISES.

Administration of the Food Hygiene Regulations has been pursued steadfastly throughout the year, and encouraging strides have been made in persuading traders to conform with the statutory requirements. In so far as equipment and fixtures are concerned, little more requires to be done. So much of the regulations, however are dependent for their success, upon their intelligent interpretation by the trade, e.g., a shop may be equipped with the most up to date toilet arrangements including wash-hand basins, hot and cold water, nailbrush and clean towels. These satisfy the regulations, but if the food handlers refrain from washing their hands in hot water and scrubbing their nails after using the toilet, no offence would appear to have been committed. Such regulations must rely on health education for their purpose to be achieved, and every effort is made in this direction (a) by a kindly approach to food handlers, who are then prepared to heed our advice, explanations and suggestions and (b) by lectures to various organisations when requested.

To date, no trader has been prosecuted for offences under the Regulations and only one has been informed that such steps will be taken unless there is a marked improvement in the general hygienic conduct of the premises.

The following table shows the nature and number of food premises of various types within your area:-

Nature of Business					Number
Grocers and Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	110
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	24
Butchers	..	..	..	..	10
Bakeries	..	..	..	..	5
Cafes	..	..	..	..	11
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	7
Food Factories	..	..	..	..	4
Canteens	..	..	..	..	16
Clubs	..	..	..	..	2
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	93
Total	..	..	..	..	282

The reason for the sharp rise in the number of licensed premises over the figure given in the report for 1956 admits of an error in last year's report.

As a result of informal action, the following improvements were carried out in food premises during the year, viz:-

Interior decorating	..	..	..	14
Repairs	..	..	..	11
Provision of sink	..	..	..	13
Replacement of defective sinks	..	..	..	3
Provision of wash hand basin	..	..	..	12
Provision of constant hot water	..	..	..	21
Provision of nail brush, soap, etc.	..	..	..	9
Improved sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	8
Improved drainage	..	..	..	3
Equipment for protection of food	..	..	..	23
Receptacles for storage of waste	..	..	..	3
Improved fixtures and fittings	..	..	..	4
Improved lighting	..	..	..	1
First aid equipment	..	..	..	93
Notice "Now wash your hands"	..	..	..	282

FOOD UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

The following foods were voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption, viz:-

Nature of Food	Reason for Condemnation	Quantity
Cheese	Mould	189 lbs.
Milk (Tinned)	Blown and damaged	13 tins
Fruit (Tinned)	Blown and damaged	48 tins
Meat (Tinned)	Blown and damaged	29 tins
Miscellaneous Tinned Foods	Blown and damaged	32 tins

HOUSING.

The following are the house construction figures for the year under review compared with those for the previous year viz:-

	1957	1956
Number of Council Houses erected	72	112
Number of Council Houses under construction	18	78
Number of Private Houses erected	10	10
Number of Private Houses under construction ..	20	14
Number of Families rehoused during the year	53	81

THE HOUSING PROBLEM AS INDICATED BY COUNCIL'S WAITING LISTS.

ANALYSIS OF APPLICATIONS.

		No. in Apart- ments.	No. of House- holders.	No. in Cat. 5 Houses.	No. out side area.	Total
Cwmllynfell	..	10	3	—	2	15
Brynamman	..	10	1	—	—	11
Upper Betws	..	—	1	—	—	1
Lower Betws	..	6	8	1	1	16
Heolddu	.. ..	2	1	—	—	3
Llandybie	.. ..	32	6	—	—	38
Penygroes	.. ..	31	7	—	—	38
Saron	.. ..	35	19	—	1	55
Llangathen	..	3	1	—	1	5
Llangadog	.. ..	7	7	4	1	19
Llansadwrn	..	6	5	1	—	12
Llandeilo North	..	2	2	2	—	6
Llandeilo South	..	3	4	—	5	12
Llanddeusant	..	1	2	1	—	4
Llansawel	.. ..	1	2	—	—	3
Talley	.. ..	1	—	—	—	1
Cilycwm	.. ..	1	1	—	—	2
Myddfai	.. ..	—	1	—	—	1
Cynwil Gaeo	..	—	—	—	—	—
Llanwrda	.. ..	4	1	—	—	5
Llanfynydd	..	—	—	—	—	—
Llanfihangel Aber.		3	2	—	—	5
Llanfair-ar-y-bryn		—	1	—	—	1
Llanegwad	..	7	1	—	2	10
Totals		165	76	9	13	263

Number of Applicants.

	10	20	30	40	50	60	70
Saron							
Llandybie							
Penygroes							
Cwmllynfell							
Brynamman.							
U. Betws							
L. Betws							
Heolddu							
Llanfihangel Aber.							
Llangathen							
Llangadog							
Llansadwrn							
Llandeilo N.							
Llandeilo S.							
Llanddeusant							
Llansawel							
Talley							
Cilycwm							
Myddfai							
Gaeo							
Llanwrda							
Llanfairarybryn							
Llanegwad							
Llanfynydd							

Diagram showing number of applicants in each Ward or Parish, December, 1957.

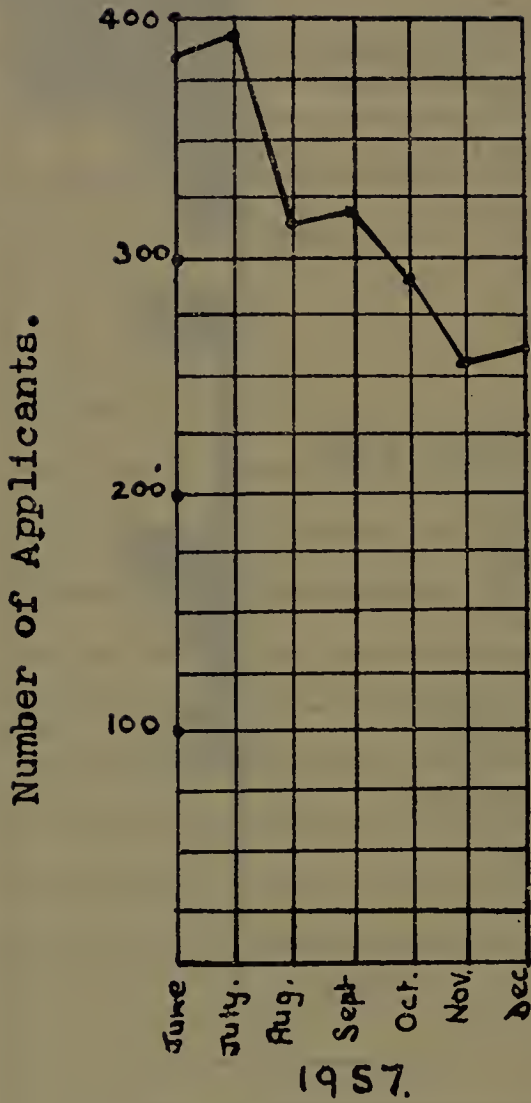


Diagram indicating trend of Council's Waiting List
June—December 1957.

COMPOSITION OF FAMILIES ON COUNCIL'S WAITING LIST.

Number of Adults per family.							Number of such Families.
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
1½	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
2	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
2½	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
3	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
3½	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
4	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
4½	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
5½	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
6	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
6½	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
7 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total No. of Applicants							263

Number of Applicants from South District .. 177

Number of Applicants from North District .. 86

The number of applications for council houses has decreased by 113 during the year.

COUNCIL ESTATES.

The following is a summary of a report presented to you during the year on an accommodation survey of your council houses.

1. Total number of houses covered by survey	777
2. Number of houses under-accommodated	83
3. Number of houses overcrowded—size of tenants family ..	63
4. Number of houses overcrowded—relations residing with tenant	12
5. Number of houses overcrowded—keeping of apart- ments	9
6. Number of houses overcrowded—keeping of lodgers ..	3
7. Total number of houses overcrowded	87
8. Number of houses with apartments	25
9. Number of houses with lodgers	11
10. Number of houses where relations of tenant reside ..	56

Observations:

Overcrowding has been assessed on bedroom accommodation only and in the following manner, viz:-

House containing 2 bedrooms suitable accommodation for 3 persons

House containing 3 bedrooms suitable accommodation for 5 persons

House containing 4 bedrooms suitable accommodation for 7 persons

Apartments:

Overcrowding of council houses in any degree by reason of the tenant sub-letting is most undesirable.

As all council house tenants must receive the written consent of the council before they are permitted to sub-let their premises, a check can be made to ensure that overcrowding does not arise if and when such permission is granted. Unfortunately, where sub-letting in the first instance may not entail overcrowding, such a condition may subsequently be brought about as a result of (1) increase in size of family-tenant's, sub-tenant's or both, or (2) a junior or juniors attaining the age of 10 years, when instead of being regarded and calculated as a half unit he is regarded as a complete unit or adult.

I see no satisfactory means of solving this problem with a stroke of the pen—other than insisting that the tenants immediately take steps to remove the sub-tenants. This cannot be regarded as a satisfactory solution to the problem inasmuch as the council have

condoned these conditions by following a policy of sub-letting. Rather would it seem to me a problem which must now be resolved quietly and gradually.

To reduce and finally to solve the problem, my recommendations are:-

- (i) No further subletting of council houses except the council are of opinion that exceptional circumstances warrant leniency in this direction.
- (ii) That the overcrowded houses be carefully and regularly checked with a view to avoiding, if possible, gross overcrowding. Such conditions when found, to be reported to the appropriate committee for their consideration.
- (iii) Immediately a sub-tenant vacates a council house, further sub-letting to be prohibited. (The tenants involved could be informed of this condition immediately).

In this way, and by gradual means, each council house will accommodate one family unit only, the purpose, after all, for which it was originally provided and planned.

It should be borne in mind, in this respect, that every council house where sub-letting has been permitted, has been converted into a house-let-in-lodgings within the meaning of Section 36 of Housing Act 1957, and as such, the council is morally bound either (i) to ensure that the sub-tenants enjoy reasonable facilities for the storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of waste water, have a satisfactory water supply and suitable drainage facilities and sanitary accommodation, or (ii) to take such steps as are reasonable for securing that the number of individuals accommodated on the premises or the number of households accommodated is limited to ensure that the above-mentioned facilities prevail.

Lodgers:

Where overcrowding occurs as a result of a tenant accommodating a lodger or lodgers, I would recommend that the tenant be informed that such lodger or lodgers must forthwith find alternative accommodation and that permission to keep lodgers be henceforth prohibited.

Relations of Tenants:

Where overcrowding is due to a tenant's accommodating a relation, the problem with which we are confronted is somewhat more difficult of solution. It may be suggested, of course, that where such overcrowding occurs, the tenant should insist on the relation finding alternative accommodation. There is that more intimate aspect, however, when action of this nature might well sever or at least injure close and healthy family relationships. The figures derived from the survey suggest that overcrowding from this cause is not a serious problem and I would suggest, that unless the council has some very good reason, family units should not be interfered with.

Large Family Units:

Overcrowding due to the size of the tenant's family is yet another difficult problem and one which to a large extent must be allowed to resolve itself. In some cases, it may be possible from time to time to arrange transfers to larger type houses, but in most such cases this will not be possible, inasmuch as the families concerned already occupy the larger type dwellings.

Under Accommodated Dwellings:

At least 88 of your houses are under accommodated, indicating that the tenants of these houses could be suitably accommodated in smaller type houses. This may be brought about (i) by a system of transfers to new houses or flats of small design to be erected for this purpose, the vacated houses then to be allocated to larger size families, or (ii) the conversion, if practicable and reasonable, of certain of these under-accommodated houses into flats. Of these, I would prefer the former project. A system of internal transfers is largely impracticable, the council estates containing so few, one or two bedroom dwellings.

The purpose in presenting this report has been to supply you with information on the conditions prevailing on your housing estates at the present time, that a future plan and policy may be designed and ultimately implemented for developing ideal housing conditions.

It seems a great pity that in so many of your houses fullest use is not being made of the accommodation provided, when so many families are still desperately anxious to find better living conditions.

Overcrowding of council houses should not be tolerated if it can reasonably be avoided or abated, and although a loss of revenue must be expected if my suggestions are eventually accepted, I submit with the greatest respect, that thought of such gain must not take precedence over the comfort, health and well-being of your tenants.

RENT ACT 1957.

The Rent Act came into operation on the 6th July, 1957. It is early as yet to form a firm opinion, but first impressions are, that it is a cumbersome piece of legislation where great care and alertness will be required to ensure good and fair administration.

By the end of the year under review, 4 applications were received from tenants for certificates of disrepair; 2 undertakings to carry out the scheduled repairs were submitted by landlords and 1 certificate of disrepair was granted.

HOUSING ACT, 1957.

The Housing Act, 1957, came into operation on 1st September, 1957. This is a consolidating Act, long overdue, and welcomed by all concerned with housing administration.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

In a set of reports for your consideration some two years ago, I outlined the means by which you were empowered to tackle the problem of unfit houses. At that time also I estimated that the number of houses to be dealt with was approximately 380 and that of these 120 would be demolished (or closed) within the five year period 1955-1960.

I was of opinion then, and still am, that the problem of slum clearance in an area such as yours, presents problems peculiar to such rural areas and problems which cannot be overcome by any speedy slum clearance drive. Here, where our 'slums' for the most part comprise individual unfit houses which include small holdings, tied cottages and farms, and these scattered over a wide area, one is confronted with a host of practical difficulties. And to depend solely on demolition and rehousing—new houses for old—is totally out of the question. Many occupiers of unfit cottages are unable to meet the rent of a council house; many occupiers of unfit small-holdings depend to a large extent upon the holding to supplement their otherwise low income; the tenants of many good farms have to make-do with very old farmhouses which cannot be repaired at a reasonable cost.

The task is formidable and in my opinion will be solved only by a combination of approaches to include demolition or closure

and rehousing where practicable, reconstruction and improvement by landlords and repair and improvement by the Council after purchase.

When the government urged a slum clearance drive in 1955, the council had already removed the majority of their dwellings which fell into the typical slum category and rehoused the occupants. And much has been done since 1955, to further improve the position as the following figures indicate.

Number of houses demolished	..	..	..	18
Number of houses closed (Section 16 action)			..	43
Number of dwellings closed in lieu of demolition			..	3
Number of dwellings repaired and improved (Sect. 16)				18
				—
Total	..	..	..	82
				—

Thus although no specific programme of slum clearance has been embarked upon, steady progress is being made in dealing with a very thorny problem, but I still feel that our efforts could be improved upon if the council would give more serious consideration to the question of discriminately purchasing certain of the unfit country cottages, particularly those which are tenant-occupied and where such tenants are unable to meet the rent of a council house.

DEPOPULATION OF RURAL WALES.

Following the White Paper on the Mid-Wales Report of the Agricultural Land Sub-Commission, the Government set up a Rural Wales Committee to ensure that action for the assistance of rural Wales is made as effective as possible.

To ascertain the nature and condition of rural housing and in particular farmhouses and cottages with land in upland areas, we were requested by the Welsh Office during the year to furnish them with data derived from a survey of the houses in the Parishes of Cynwil Gaco and Llansawel.

For your interest and information some of the important details requested and submitted are set out below:-

PARISH OF LLANSAWEL.

Part 1.

1.	Number of dwellings included in survey	..	..	143
2.	Population of these dwellings	..	..	283
3.	Number of dwellings built in parish since the war by:-			
	(a) Local Authority	..	..	6
	(b) Private Enterprise	..	..	3
4.	Number of dwellings in parish which have been improved with the aid of grant under H.A. 1949 by:			
	(a) Local Authority	..	..	Nil
	(b) Private Enterprise	..	..	3

Part 11.

		Farmhouses & Cottages with land.	Other Houses.
5.	(a) No. of houses satisfactory in all respects	10	17
	(b) As (a) but overcrowded	Nil	Nil
6.	(a) No. of houses with minor defects	29	29
	(b) As (a) but overcrowded	Nil	Nil
7.	(a) No. of houses with serious defects but which could be remedied at reasonable expense and with the assistance of grants under H.A. 1949	22	17
	(b) As (a) but overcrowded	Nil	Nil
8.	(a) No. of houses unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	10	9

Part 111.

		Farmhouses	Others.
9.	No. of houses occupied by 2 or less persons	6	38
10.	No. of houses with mains water supply	2	48
11.	No. of houses served by mains sewer or septic tank	Nil	6
12.	No. of houses with mains electricity or with own supply	19	59

PARISH OF CYNWIL GAEO.

Part 1.

1.	No. of dwellings included in survey	..	..	..	355
2.	Population of these dwellings	..	..	..	895
3.	No. of dwellings built in parish since the war by:-				
	(a) Local Authority	..	..	..	10
	(b) Private Enterprise	..	..	..	3
4.	No. of dwellings in parish which have been improved with the aid of grant under H.A. 1949 by				
	(a) Local Authority	..	..	..	Nil
	(b) Private Enterprise	..	..	..	14

Part 11.

		Farmhouses & Cottages with land.	Other Houses.
5.	(a) No. of houses satisfactory in all respects	25	26
	(b) As (a) but overcrowded	Nil	Nil
6.	(a) No. of houses with minor defects	101	38
	(b) As (a) but overcrowded	Nil	Nil
7.	(a) No. of houses with serious defects but which could be remedied at reasonable expense and with the assistance of grants under H.A. 1949	51	32
	(b) As (a) but overcrowded	Nil	Nil
8.	No. of houses unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	41	41

Part 111.

	Farmhouses.	Others.
9.	No. of houses occupied by 2 or less persons	81
10.	No. of houses with mains water supply	41
11.	No. of houses served by mains sewer or septic tank	18
12.	No. of houses with mains electricity or with own supply	86

ACTION TAKEN UNDER HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1954.

(Latterly—Housing Act, 1957).

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs (Section 9)	10
2.	Number of houses which were rendered fit by owner after service of formal notice (Section 9)	7
3.	Number of houses which were rendered fit by local authority in default of owners (Section 10) ..	Nil
4.	Number of houses reconstructed as a result of action under Section 11.	13
5.	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	9
6.	Number of notices served in respect of dwelling houses overcrowded	Nil
7.	Number of dwelling houses in which overcrowding was abated after service of formal notice	Nil
8.	Number of separate tenement or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made (Section 12)	1
9.	Number of tenement or underground rooms in respect of which closing order determined the tenement room having been rendered fit	Nil
10.	Number of unfit houses closed (under Section 11 Housing Act, 1936, and Sections 10 & 11 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	16

CONCLUSION.

The work accomplished during the year would not have been possible except for the good understanding and close team work within the department, the ready assistance and friendly co-operation of all heads of departments and their staffs and the kindly interest and tolerance shown at all times by the Council.

Looking back is sometime as helpful and encouraging as looking forward to and planning the future, and I can only hope that my report may be of some value to you, if only that it satisfies you, as it takes you back over the field of environmental hygiene which your labourers have worked upon over the past year, that a sincere and serious effort has been made to improve the conditions governing the health and welfare of that portion of the population for which you have made yourselves responsible.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Olley, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. THOMAS,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

